

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/820,114

Examiner

James A. Thompson

Applicant(s)

CHANG, CHING-WEI

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05 January 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

James A. Thompson
Examiner
Technology Division 2625

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Appeal Brief, filed 05 January 2007, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-17 under 35 USC §103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-17 under 35 USC §103(a) have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1-17 are allowed.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is a method whereby a second generation multi-level halftone image is produced from an original halftone image and said second generation multi-level halftone image retains the original halftone dots and pixels therein. Furthermore, from the set of tone levels of said original halftone image, a tone level closest to the pixel tone level of each pixel in the second generation multi-level halftone image to minimize noise generated during scanning without constructing a new halftone center. Examiner has not discovered these particular features of the method of claim 1 in the prior art such that claim 1 would be either anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art. Further, claims 2-7 are considered allowable at least owing to their dependencies, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim 8 recites the aforementioned features that are present in claim 1 and is thus considered allowable for the same reasons. Claims 9-12 are considered allowable at least owing to their dependencies, either directly or indirectly, from claim 8.

Claim 13 recites the aforementioned features that are present in claim 1 and is thus considered allowable for the same reasons. Claims 14-17 are considered allowable at least owing to their dependencies, either directly or indirectly, from claim 13.

The closest prior art of record discovered are the previously cited combination of Hanyu (USPN 5,812,742) in view of Sano (USPN 6,072,590), and the reference Shu (USPN 4,926,267), none of which fully teaches the presently recited claims.

Any comment considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statements of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2625

Conclusion

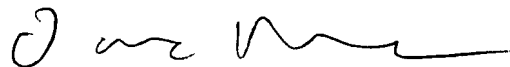
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-7441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

James A. Thompson
Examiner
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JAT
14 May 2007



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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